

Senator Toni Harp
Appropriations Committee Co-Chair
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Toni Harp,

3/21/11

My name is Brittany Roberts and I am sophomore in the Wamogo agriscience program in Litchfield. I live in Torrington and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because of my love and interest in horses.

I enjoy training my miniature horses and my large pony. I also enjoy timber sports and working in the woods. When I first came to Wamogo, I was very interested in the animal science, and now my favorite activity is forestry. In the near future, I plan on attending college and becoming a forester, and would like to work on the front lines of logging in the North Western part of the United States.

My SAE consists of a small miniature horse farm. My goal is to breed show quality registered miniature horses. I currently own a registered miniature appaloosa stallion, a registered miniature gelding, a miniature cross colt, and a large pony gelding. My stallion is currently in training, and will be heavily shown this year with goals to attend the AMHA World Show. I very much enjoy my SAE, and it is one of the best feelings to earn a horse's trust and train it from the ground up.

In addition to my horses, I am also greatly involved in FFA, I have competed on the Forestry CDE team, and will be competing on the Parliamentary Procedure team this year. I have also been a sub-committee chair since my freshman year, and plan on running for an officer position. FFA has and will continue to leave a permanent mark on me; it has also given me a lot of leadership skills and knowledge I will use for the rest of my life. Being a part of FFA, is very important to me, and is the best choice I have ever made.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Brittany Roberts

